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### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 9-18 remain in this application for examination. Applicant confirms that claims 1-8 have been withdrawn from examination as directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicant expresses his sincere appreciation for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10 and 11; however, Applicant respectfully submits that upon reviewing the references cited in the Office Action, it is clear that Applicant's invention, as filed, distinguishes over the references applied.

#### **Rejection of claims 9 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):**

Claims 9 and 12-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Takewaka et al. '348. Note that U.S. Patent No. 6,189,650 issued to Inuzuka et al., not to Takewaka et al. In this response, Applicant is assuming that the rejection is based on Takewaka et al. '348 since there is a separate rejection based on Inuzuka et al. '650. Applicant respectfully traverses a rejection based on Takewaka et al. '348.

In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, every limitation in the claim must be taught in a single applied reference. Clearly, this is not the case with respect to Takewaka et al. '348 because Takewaka et al. '348 discloses neither an "array of baffle plates" nor "pipes extending through holes in the plates," which are both required limitations of claim 9. While in Takewaka et al. '348 there is a discussion of stainless steel wire mesh (34), stainless steel wool matting (35) and stainless steel wire netting (37), the elements are not in combination with baffle plates and pipes. Consequently, a proposed rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Takewaka et al. '348 is not sustainable in that Takewaka et al. '348 fails to teach all of the limitations of independent claim 9.

Claims 9 and 12-17 have also been rejected as being anticipated by Inuzuka et al. '650. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Inuzuka et al. '650 fails to disclose the following structure of independent claim 9:

... wire bushings between at least one of the pipes and the holes in the plates to compensate for the different rates of thermal expansion between the pipes and the plates.

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Applicant's claimed wire bushings are alleged by the Examiner to be anticipated by a first wire mesh (25) and a second wire mesh (30) shown in Fig. 3 of Inuzuka et al. '650. It is respectfully submitted that the wire mesh of Inuzuka et al. does not comprise wire bushings between at least one of the pipes and the holes in the plate to compensate for different rates of thermal expansion. Rather in Inuzuka et al. '650, the wire mesh comprises parts of a valve arrangement (32) which closes side holes (24 and 29) in the vicinity of the upstream inlet opening (22), as well as an opening formed in the side surface of the outlet pipe which opens into the second chamber (18). Clearly, the wire mesh of Inuzuka et al. '650 is not disposed in holes in the plates (15 and 15A) as shown in Fig. 1 of Inuzuka et al. Thus, Inuzuka et al. '650 fails to teach the above-mentioned wire bushings limitation recited in claim 9.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), based on Inuzuka et al. '650 also be withdrawn in that all of the claimed structure is not taught by Inuzuka et al.

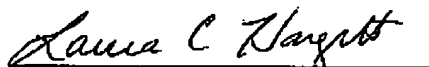
In that claims 12-18 depend from independent claim 9, the rejection of claims 12-18 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by either Takewaka et al. or Inuzuka et al. should be withdrawn for the same reasons that the rejections of claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that formal drawings were filed with this application on the filing date of March 10, 2004. As such, the suggestion that Applicants submit formal drawings is appreciated but not necessary.

In that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action of August 24, 2005, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed it issue. If the Examiner for any reason feels a telephonic conference with Applicant's attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned locally.

Please charge any fees that may be due to General Motors Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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